



Plastic doesn't decay!

For many years people have thought that the ocean is limitless and immune to human impacts. However, oceans provide a home for hundreds of thousands of species on earth, and it is essential for human life. Unfortunately, while many species depend on the ocean for its ability to create food and oxygen, human activities continue to negatively impact the ocean and its wildlife. With such an incredible amount of plastic waste taking over our oceans, we are witnessing a pollution crisis occur around the world. A large population of marine life are now exposed to consuming toxic waste in their food chain, which is life threatening to millions of marine animals.

One of the biggest threats to marine life is microplastics which are the tiny pieces of plastic which come from larger plastics that have degraded over time. In 2014, an estimated 15 to 51 trillion microplastic particles were floating in the world's oceans, weighing between 93,000 and 236,000 tonnes. Each year, more than 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean, yet the three biggest ocean clean-ups deal with just 0.5% of that pollution. As the challenges continue to grow novel ideas are being put in place by the UN to help achieve a clean ocean.

Why should we care about the ocean?

- The ocean produces over half of the world's oxygen and stores 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere.
- The ocean covers 70% of the earth's surface. The ocean transports heat from the equator to the poles and regulates the climate and weather patterns.
- The ocean provides recreation in the form of fishing, boating, kayaking, as well as whale watching. The ocean provides us with so many unique activities.
- The ocean provides much more than just seafood. Some ingredients needed in food can also be found in the sea such as peanut butter and soymilk.
- Many medical products come from the ocean including ingredients that may help fight cancer, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease and heart disease.
- The ocean also provides a means for transportation and trade. In the US about 3 million dollars is generated as revenue annually.

Take action:

- What is the most common form of ocean litter?: ([Learn more](#))
- Technologies that will help rid ocean pollution: ([Learn more](#))
- One planet, One ocean: ([Watch now](#))
- Learn more about World Ocean Day(8 June): ([Learn more](#))